Shortage of anti-rabies vaccine in the country

1187. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of anti-rabies vaccine in the country; if so, the extent of yearly shortage;

(b) what are the reasons for the shortage of anti-rabies vaccine in the country;

(c) how many cases, on an average, of rabies are reported annually and what is the percentage of deaths due to rabies/dog bites; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Government to meet the shortage of anti-rabies vaccine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Some shortage of Anti-rabies vaccine was reported recently because of the non-availability of essential chemicals, strikes of state Government employees etc.

(c) On an average 80—90 thousand cases of dog bite are reporting for treatment annually in the country, out of which 600-700 rabies deaths are reported.

(d) Production of anti-rabies vaccine has since improved.

Mishap in Vayudoot flights

1188. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindu dated 13th March, 1987 captioned "Vayudoot defective engines or faulty take off";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government therefor;

(c) how many mishaps occurred in Vayudoot flights during the last three years, indicating the reasons for each mishap separately; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure air safety for passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is seized of the problem of engine failures installed on the Dornier aircraft in the fleet of Vayudoot and is taking necessary corrective steps in this behalf.

(c) and (d) There have been no major mishaps in Vayudoot flight involving loss of life or major damage to the aircraft other than the isolated incident at Rajahmundry on 17.7.85 when one of the Traffic Handling Staff inadvertently walked into the running propeller and succumbed to injuries. In addition, there have been incidents of emergency window flying off on the Dornier aircraft VT-EJF while operating scheduled flight PF-722 on 24-3-87 and the main door of the same aircraft having opened in mid-air on 30-3-87 during scheduled flight PF-102 from Ludhiana to Delhi. With a view to preventing incidents of door opening in the Dornier flights, commanders have been instructed to physically check the door for proper closing and locking before starting the engine. In addition, a technician is also being carried on all flights. The entire fleet of Dornier aircraft have also been subjected to a detailed check to ensure proper functioning of the door locking mechanism.